

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CPR-02 SY-04 A-01

FBIE-00 SAJ-01 USSS-00 IOE-00 DRC-01 /108 W

----- 094183

O 201941Z MAY 74 ZFF-6

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4164

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS USUN 1872

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR, US, PFOR, ASEC

SUBJ: FIRE DAMAGE SOVIET MISSION CAR

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 4:00 AM, MAY 19, 1974, A 1971 TOYOTA, DPL-808, REGISTERED TO SMUN AND OPERATED BY GRIGORIY V. BERDERNIKOV, SMUN STAFF MEMBER, WAS FIRE DAMAGED BY UNKNOWN PERSON. CAR WAS PARKED IN FRONT OF COTTAGE OCCUPIED BY BERDERNIKOV AND HIS FAMILY DURING SUMMER MONTHS. ADDRESS IS 126 BEACH 24TH ST, FAR ROCKAWAY, QUEENS, NEW YORK.

2. SHORTLY AFTER INCIDENT, ANONYMOUS CALLER PHONED ASSOCIATED PRESS AND SAID CAR HAD BEEN SET AFIRE BY "JEWISH STERNIST COMITE." CALLER STATED "AS KREMLIN'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST SOVIET JEWS INTENSIFIES, OUR CAMPAIGN AGAINST KREMLIN WILL INTENSIFY." NEW YORK POLICE ADVISE THIS IS FIRST THEY HAVE HEARD OF STERNIST COMITE AND BELIEVE IT IS GROUP OF JDL MEMBERS WHO HAVE ADOPTED NAME.

3. INCIDENT BEING INVESTIGATED BY NEW YORK POLICE. NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENT TOLD POLICE HE OBSERVED LONE INDIVIDUAL POUR LIQUID OVER CAR THEN FLEE AS LIQUID IGNITED. DAMAGE UNCLASSIFIED

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TO CAR CONFINED TO BURNED UPHOLSTERY, DESTROYED TIRE,

AND SCORCHED PAINT.

4. SOVIET AMB SAFRONCHUK TELEPHONED AMB BENNETT APPROXIMATELY 12:30 PM, MAY 19, TO EXPRESS HIS SERIOUS CONCERN OVER "INTOLERABLE" INCIDENT. HE STATED HE WOULD MAKE INCIDENT MATTER OF RECORD THROUGH NOTE OF PROTEST WHICH SMUN PLANNED SEND USUN MAY 20. SAFRONCHUK ALSO ADVISED SOVS WOULD CLAIM DAMAGES. BENNETT EXPRESSED REGRET. ACCORDING TO AMB BENNETT, SAFRONCHUK'S DEemeanor WAS CORRECT AND FIRM BUT NOT OFFENSIVE.

5. IN TV NEWS INTERVIEW AT SITE OF INCIDENT, BERDERNIKOV STATED WHILE HE CONCERNED ABOUT DAMAGE TO CAR, WHICH, HE STATED, COULD BE REPAIRED, HE MUCH MORE CONCERNED OVER DAMAGE INCIDENT THIS NATURE COULD DO TO US-USSR DETENTE.

6. DURING SUMMER MONTHS, SOVS OCCUPY SOME SIXTH BEACH COTTAGES IN FAR ROCKAWAY. COTTAGES ALL LOCATED WITHIN FOUR-BLOCK AREA. POLICE HAVE RECORD OF ALL ADDRESSES AND AFFORD THEM SPECIAL ATTENTION DURING OCCUPANCY. BERDERNIKOV'S VISIT TO COTTAGE WAS FIRST OF SEASON AND POLICE HAD NOT YET IMPLEMENTED INCREASED SURVEILLANCE OF COTTAGES.

7. INCIDENT PRESENTED TO US ATTORNEY, THOMAS PATTISON, EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, WHO DECLINED FEDERAL PROSECUTION IN FAVOR OF LOCAL POLICE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL HARASSMENT, ARSON, AUTOMOBILES, POLICE PROTECTION RIGHTS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974USUNN01872  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740125-0101  
**From:** USUN NEW YORK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740532/aaaabcha.tel  
**Line Count:** 90  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** shawdg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 OCT 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 OCT 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2003 by shawdg>  
**Review Markings:**

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**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FIRE DAMAGE SOVIET MISSION CAR  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ASEC, PINS, UR, US, JDL, JEWISH STERNIST COMITE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005